



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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COUNCIL URGES LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR METRO FUNDING, MORE FEDERAL DOLLARS

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The Montgomery County Council today unanimously urged the governors of Maryland and Virginia, as well as the mayor of Washington, to work together to craft a long-range funding plan to meet Metro's burgeoning needs. The Council also identified more federal funding as critical to the success of any such plan.

Joining the Council in calling on WMATA to bolster its funding capacity was County Executive Doug Duncan.

"As Chair of the Council's Transportation and Environment Committee, I believe it is essential to close the gap in funding our Metro system," said Councilmember Nancy Floreen. "It's long past time for federal and state leaders to shoulder their obligations and do the right thing for Metro. If they don't, the question is not if the system will suffer a major breakdown – it's when."

"Nearly half of Metro's peak-period riders are federal employees, and 40% of Metrorail stations directly serve federal facilities. As a critical segment of the region's transportation network – not to mention our homeland security plan -- the Metro system must continue and flourish."

"A healthy and expanded Metro system is essential to this region's well being, and this cannot be accomplished without a dedicated funding source," said Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan. "The Washington region must step up to the plate to provide the money to pay for strengthening our transit system. The decisions we make today about the challenges and opportunities facing Metro will shape the landscape of this region for decades."

The resolution approved today references the work of a 13-member Dedicated Review Panel on Metro Funding that operated under a charter from the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and recommended dedicated funding for the system.

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“Without a renewed commitment to funding WMATA, the system will rapidly become one that is running on empty,” said Councilmember Michael Knapp. “The Dedicated Review Panel proposed a number of options that – for the sake of the system and the millions who depend on it – deserve full and fair consideration.”

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